

**Title: PACIFIC ISLANDS-
Polynesian Cultural Art
Grade Level: K-5**

Objective: Members will explore storytelling through symbol and learn about Asian Pacific Islander cultural traditions.



Lesson Plan

Materials: copy paper or construction paper, pencils, markers.

Opening Activity: Asian-Pacific Islands. Fiji, Samoa, Hawaii, Tahiti- all of these islands share elements of culture and heritage, religious traditions and styles of food! Ask members if they've seen the movie MOANA, and have them name elements of the lifestyle of the island people depicted in that movie. Ask them if they remember that Maui had many stories of his life depicted as tattoos on his body. Have students think about the symbols they might use to describe their own life's journey, heritage or family history.

Core Activity:

- Members will invent a short story told in symbols, like the tattoos on MAUI!
- Have members style the drawings like traditional Polynesian tattoos: use strong shapes, repeating patterns, and stylized animals or features of nature: waves, volcanoes, trees. Ask students: what are the symbols and images of YOUR story?
- Have members sketch a story using symbols and images that are present in their lives. They should use pencils and markers to bring their story to life in a colorful way!

Reflection: As members help clean up the space, ask them: what other ways do we use ART to tell our stories?